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**Congress of the United States**  
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July 21, 2011

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The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott III  
Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423

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Office of Proceedings

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Public Record

Dear Chairman Elliott:

I am writing to urge you to expeditiously review the Petition for Declaratory Order (FD\_35491\_0) filed on April 8, 2011 by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC).

The SCCRTC has been working diligently with the Union Pacific Railroad, California Transportation Commission, and several local entities for several years on the purchase of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. At this time, an STB decision is the final step in the process that will result in the successful transfer of the line to the SCCRTC, and the Santa Cruz community is anxious to see this sale completed.

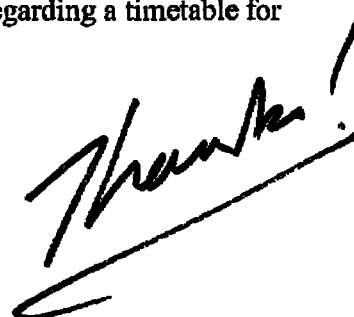
Finalizing the sale will allow the SCCRTC to have access to engineering information regarding the line that is required for an application to the California Transportation Commission for funds to rehabilitate the line. As you may know, the fiscal situation in the state of California is dire, and the SCCRTC is anxious to request vital track rehabilitation funds as soon as possible.

It is my understanding the STB responds to Petitions such as these 30-90 days after a filing. Given that the Petition was filed more than 90 days ago, I am concerned about the timing of your approval as the SCCRTC cannot afford to miss the opportunity to apply for CTC funds. This project is a win-win for the local community and will offer multi-modal transportation opportunities in the region and support the local economy.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience regarding a timetable for consideration of the SCCRTC Petition.

Sincerely,

  
SAM FARR  
Member of Congress



SF/dm